

# OVERVIEW

This *Great Start Readiness Program Implementation Manual* is designed to serve as a guide for Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) administrators and staff. The Michigan State Board of Education criteria for GSRP requires adherence to this manual and all standards in the *Early Childhood Standards of Quality for Prekindergarten* (ECSQ-PK). Both resources are located at [www.michigan.gov/gsrp](http://www.michigan.gov/gsrp). Other resources critical to implementing high-quality preschool programs are an approved comprehensive curriculum, an approved ongoing child assessment tool and the *Preschool Program Quality Assessment* (PQA). Additional information about these resources can be found in subsequent sections of this document.

## Purpose

The GSRP is Michigan's state-funded preschool program for four-year-old children with factors which may place them at risk of educational failure. The program is administered by the Michigan Department of Education, Office of Great Start. Research on preschool programs and specific research on GSRP indicates that children provided with a high-quality preschool experience show significant positive developmental differences when compared to children from the same backgrounds who did not attend a high-quality preschool program.

To strengthen learning at home and strengthen positive child outcomes, programs must provide for active and continuous involvement of \*parents in the learning process. Depending on income level, parents may be required to pay tuition, but parents are never charged additional fees for program elements such as transportation or meal service. Through advisory committees, parents assist to evaluate and make recommendations about the program.

## History

The Department of Education Appropriation Act, in fiscal year 1986, designated one million dollars to identify appropriate program models for the operation of preschool pilot projects. Fifty-three projects were funded and served 694 four-year-old children at risk of educational failure. In fiscal year 1987, Section 36 of the State School Aid Act, and the Department of Education Appropriation Act provided funds for early childhood programs for four-year-old children at risk of educational failure. Programs began operating after September 1, 1988.

The GSRP History of Funding can be found on the program website under *Eligibility, Allocations and Awards*.

## The GSRP Name and Logo

A program name change in 2008-2009, from the Michigan School Readiness Program (MSRP) to the Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP), helped to directly align our state prekindergarten program with Project Great Start, our state early childhood initiative to foster school readiness and life success for young children.

State prekindergarten grantees must utilize the GSRP name and unifying logo with families, the community, and at the state level. The name and logo identify each program as a strong partner in the systems-building efforts of Great Start, where services to children and families emerge from our *Michigan Early Childhood Standards of Quality for Infants and Toddlers* and the ECSQ-PK. Name-branding assists advocacy efforts, making it evident that children who participate in GSRP have strong child outcomes, setting the stage for successful school experiences and graduation on-schedule with peers. Logos are available for use and can be located in the resources for this section.

The following statement will be included on any publication or project materials developed with funds awarded under this program, including reports, films, brochures, and flyers: "These materials were developed under a grant awarded by the Michigan Department of Education."

\*Parent = legal guardian